

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs in the Specification with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0046] Referring to FIGURE 5, a flow diagram illustrating a method implemented in a mobile station in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is shown. As depicted in this figure, the mobile station measures the strengths of the pilot signals received from the various base stations (~~block 510~~ (block 510)) and periodically sends pilot strength measurement messages (PSMMs) to the network (block 520). As will be explained in more detail below, the mobile station may receive a handoff direction message (HDM) from the network (block 530). The HDM may direct the mobile station either to enter or soft handoff or ~~leaves~~ leave soft handoff. The mobile station therefore enters or leaves soft handoff as directed by the HDM (block 540). The mobile station also sets the transmission parameters based upon whether the mobile station is directed by the HDM to enter or leave soft handoff (block 550). When the mobile station is finished entering or leaving soft handoff and setting the appropriate transmission parameters, a handoff completion message (HCM) is transmitted back to the network (block 560).

[0047] Referring to FIGURE 6, a flow diagram illustrating a method implemented in a base station in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is shown. As shown in the figure, the network first receives one of the PSMMs (block 610). If the mobile station was previously in soft handoff (block 620), the network then examines the pilot signal strength information in the PSMM and determines whether there is only one base station for which the corresponding pilot signal strength remains above the threshold level (~~block 630~~ (block 630)). If there are still multiple base stations for which the corresponding pilot signal strengths are above the threshold, the mobile station should remain in soft handoff, so no action is taken by the network. If there is only one base station for which the corresponding signal strength is above the threshold, the mobile station should no longer be in soft handoff, so the network sends an HDM to the mobile station directing the mobile station to leave soft handoff (block 640).